

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-8, 10-13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 as follows:

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B1  
3/(Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual sockets including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- C
- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole <sup>is</sup> aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
  - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;

c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

B1  
cont.  
d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;

e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole <sup>is</sup> aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;

c  
f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and

B1,2  
cancel

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle, wherein each said shield is a T-shaped slide panel having a pair of outwardly extending tabs and a main flat body with a pair of integral parallel legs in which each of said [leg] legs extends from one said tab adjacent said main flat body.

B2

<sup>6</sup>  
4.(Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual sockets including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower

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sockets, while said central hole<sup>15</sup> aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;

B2  
b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;

c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate, wherein said guiding means includes an H-shaped cross member integrally formed centrally on said front face of said back cover plate; and a pair of vertically spaced apart side guide rails integrally formed in said front face of said back cover plate on opposite sides of said H-shaped cross member;

d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;

e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures  
therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures  
being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower  
sockets, while said central hole <sup>is</sup> aligned with the central threaded opening  
of the receptacle in the outlet box;

f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said  
shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded  
opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said  
front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from  
said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of  
the receptacle; and

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said  
front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away  
from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower  
socket of the receptacle.

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8.(Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual sockets including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- B2
- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
  - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;
  - c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, wherein said biasing means includes two studs integrally formed in said front face of said back cover plate; and four springs in which two said springs are connected between said upper shield and said two studs, while other two said springs are connected between said lower shield and said two studs;

B2

e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;

f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of

the receptacle; and

- B29  
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- h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle.

Claim 6, line 6, please delete "the"; and  
line 10, please delete "said".

B3

8  
/ (Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual sockets including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;



b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;

B3  
c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;

e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;

f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

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g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle, wherein said upper shield engaging means includes said upper shield having three depressions in a front face thereof simulating a hot slot, neutral slot and ground slot of the upper socket of the receptacle, for engagement by [the] a hot blade, neutral blade and ground prong of [the] an electrical plug; and said front cover plate having three vertical slots extending upwardly from said upper aperture and in alignment with said three depressions in said upper shield, to allow the electrical plug to raise said upper shield to its uppermost position; and

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle.

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8. (Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual socket including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- B3
- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
  - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;
  - c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

- B3
- d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;
  - e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
  - f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;
  - g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle, wherein said lower shield engaging means includes said lower shield having three depressions in a front face thereof simulating a hot slot, neutral slot and ground slot of the lower socket of the receptacle, for engagement by [the] a hot blade, neutral blade and ground prong of [the] an electrical plug; and said front cover plate having three vertical slots extending downwardly from said lower aperture and in alignment with said three depressions in said lower shield to allow the electrical plug to lower said lower shield to its lowermost position.

B3.2  
cenc

Claim 10, line 6, after "each" please insert --of-- and please change "tab" to --tabs--;

line 11, after "one" please insert --of-- and please change "shield" to --shields--; and

line 13, please change "shield" to --one of said shields--.

Claim 11, line 4, please change "two" to --first and second --.

10  
12. (Twice Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets, the dual sockets including an upper socket and a lower socket, and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- B4
- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
  - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the [dual] upper and lower sockets of the receptacle;
  - c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

- B4
- d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;
- e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the [dual] upper and lower sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
- f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;
- g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle;

- h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle;
- i) means on said front cover plate for locking each of said shields in the normally obstructing positions;
- j) means on said front cover plate for releasing each of said shields from the normally obstructing positions; and
- k) means on said front cover plate for retaining each of said shields away from the sockets of the receptacle, so that an electrical plug can engage with each of the sockets of the receptacle.

Claim 13, lines 2 and 6, after "each" please insert --of-- and please change "shield" to --shields--; and

line 11, after "one" please insert --of-- and please change "tab" to --tabs--;



Claim 16, line 6, please delete "the"; and  
line 10, please delete "said".

Claim 17, line 8, please change "the" to --a--.

Claim 20, line 6, after "each" please insert --of-- and please change  
"tab" to --tabs--;

line 11, after "one" please insert --of-- and please change  
"shield" to --shields--;

line 12, after "said" please insert --two--;  
line 13, please change "shield" to --one of said shields--and delete  
"said"; and

line 16, please delete "the".

Claim 21, line 4, please change "two" to --first and second--.

#### REMARKS

Claims 3-21 are pending in the application. In this supplemental response claims 3-8,  
10-13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended.